

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
March 26, 2008
5 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Nancy Bess, Denise Boyd, Helen MacMellon, Carolyn Platt, Nancy Pagano

Guest: Town Manager, Larry Shaffer

Members Absent: Byron Koh, Stephanie Joyce, Yuko Takahashi

This was a special meeting requested by Town Manager Larry Shaffer. During his anticipated 6-7 year tenure as Town Manager, Mr. Shaffer has decided that he wants to visit each of the Town's three sister cities: Kanegasaki, Japan; La Paz Centro, Nicaragua; and Nyeri, Kenya. He would like to visit them in the order of their establishment if possible. Mr. Shaffer asked the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee to assist him with this visit by endorsing and supporting his trip, advising him about how to approach Kanegasaki officials about the visit, and assisting him with gifts and other associated customs, etc.

During the March 19th Town Hall reception, Mr. Shaffer had mentioned this idea to Myuki (Chida) Sato, who was the official representative of the Kanegasaki Town Hall Friendship Committee and a chaperone accompanying the Kanegasaki Junior High students. Myuki-san spoke privately with Nancy Pagano after that to say that the timing Mr. Shaffer has in mind, i.e. 2009, presents a bit of a problem. She explained that Kanegasaki will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of their Friendship Committee and Mayor Takahashi is drafting an invitation currently to invite Mr. Shaffer to attend that in 2010.

After hearing this news, Mr. Shaffer said that he would be amenable to planning his trip in 2010 so he could attend the events Kanegasaki is planning. He may reconsider the order of the visits to the various sister cities.

The Kanegasaki Sister City Committee definitely endorses Mr. Shaffer's trip to Kanegasaki and will assist him in any way possible. It was decided to start preparing a comprehensive "Memory Book" compiling all the photos, newspaper articles and other documents related to the Amherst-Kanegasaki Sister Cities relationship, and this "Memory Book" can be brought by Mr. Shaffer as a gift to Kanegasaki when he visits there. **A meeting is planned for Thursday, May 8th, at 5 PM at the Senior Center to begin this process.** Anyone who has any KSCC materials is asked to bring them to this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting ended at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Secretary/Liaison